

**DR. ALLEN FOSSBENDER, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
EASTON, REDDING AND REGION 9 SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

Winter, 2010

**UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT:
EASTON LEARNING FOUNDATION**

The Easton Learning Foundation has had a profound, positive impact on the quality of teaching and learning in the Easton and Region 9 School Districts since its inception in 2005. ELF's success derives from its most fundamental characteristic: it embodies the priorities of the Easton Community for its local public schools. It values and promotes high academic standards, innovative curricula, excellent instruction, effective applications of technology, and efficient use of resources. ELF enhances the value and usefulness of its funding for Easton public schools by supporting standards-based initiatives that are among the most successful of those implemented at the highest performing public and private schools in the United States. In doing so, it enlightens our students, inspires our teachers, and advances the mission of our school districts.

During the last five years, ELF has funded many grants for significant and timely learning, including in-depth study of DNA, analyses of historical events, research in globalization, and assessment of climate change. It has supported study in music, art, writing, literature, and poetry. Equally impressive, ELF has enhanced virtually all dimensions of teaching and learning through the purchase of the transforming technology of SMART Boards for every classroom at Samuel Staples and Helen Keller. It has complemented the SMART Boards with the donation of sophisticated computer software that assists teachers in personalizing instruction for their students.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

ELF's current fundraising is focused on the implementation at Helen Keller of Project Lead the Way, which is a highly respected interdisciplinary program designed for all middle school students that is endorsed by leading American corporations. It introduces the concepts and applications of engineering by stressing the authentic use of science, mathematics, and technology. Project Lead the Way will reconceptualize practical arts at Helen Keller. It will introduce students to the allure of engineering and will teach them critical skills in real-life mathematical and scientific problem solving. In doing so, the program will introduce students to professionally and personally rewarding careers in these subject areas, on which the future economy and success of our country will be principally based. In addition, the program will distinguish Helen Keller Middle School as one of the most progressive schools in Connecticut in the systematic, sequential study of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The members of the school community, especially our students, are fortunate to be beneficiaries of the Easton Learning Foundation's impressive goodwill, selfless work, and extensive funding of projects and programs. Project Lead the Way exemplifies the foundation's steadfast commitment to helping children in discovering the excitement of learning and in developing the discipline to achieve it. I encourage you to support ELF's mission and to donate to its fundraising. Your generosity will touch the minds and the lives of many schoolchildren in Easton.

Sincerely,

